

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

A complete listing of the claims is as follows:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear comprising:

an upper;

a bottom assembly;

the upper ~~comprises~~ comprising a liner assembled together along a first longitudinal assembly seam and a second vertical or substantially vertical assembly seam, both ~~longitudinal and vertical~~ said seams being arranged on a lateral side of the ~~shoe~~ upper of the article of footwear and being the only seams for assembling the ~~upper to the bottom assembly~~ liner together.

Claim 2. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the upper comprises a heel stiffener arranged on an exterior of said upper.

Claim 3. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 2, wherein:

the upper comprises a heel area;

an outer gusset in the heel area adapted to receive the heel stiffener.

Claim 4. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 3, wherein:

foam is housed within the gusset, between the upper and the heel stiffener.

Claim 5. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 4, wherein:

the upper is made of an extensible and ventilated material.

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear according to claim 5, wherein:  
the upper is covered by an outer protective layer made of a ~~fine-meshed~~ fine mesh type of material in a front portion of the upper.

Claim 7. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 6, wherein:  
the outer protective layer is attached to the upper in an area of the bottom assembly.

Claim 8. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 6, wherein:  
the outer protective layer extends from a front to an area of the gusset.

Claim 9. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 7, wherein:  
the outer protective layer extends from a front to an area of the gusset.

Claim 10. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:  
two tightening quarters are arranged on medial and lateral sides of the upper, respectively, each of the tightening quarters being attached at a lower end to the upper in an area of the bottom assembly, and each of the tightening quarters is provided at an upper end with lacing guides.

Claim 11. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:  
a shock absorbing sole is arranged on the exterior of the upper, between the upper and the bottom assembly.

Claim 12. *(New)* An article of footwear according to claim 10, wherein:

the two tightening quarters are assembled to the liner by seams.

Claim 13. *(New)* An article of footwear according to claim 10, wherein:

the two tightening quarters are assembled to the liner by stitching.

Claim 14. *(New)* An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the longitudinal assembly seam and the substantially vertical assembly seam are both stitched seams.

Claim 15. *(New)* An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the bottom assembly comprises an outer sole.

Claim 16. *(New)* An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the liner is an integral part of the article of footwear, fixed against removal for wear separate from the article of footwear.

Claim 17. *(New)* An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the liner is stitched in placed as an integral part of the article of footwear.

Claim 18. *(New)* An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the liner is a slipper including vamp and a sole.

Claim 19. (New) An article of footwear comprising:

a bottom assembly including an outer sole;

an upper comprising:

a liner, said liner having a vamp and a sole and being fixed with regard to other parts of the article of footwear against withdrawal from the article of footwear;

the sole of the liner having a periphery;

a first predetermined length of the periphery of the sole of the liner being made as one piece with the vamp, said predetermined length being located only on a medial side of the article of footwear;

a second predetermined length of the periphery extending along a lateral side of the article of footwear and being stitched to the vamp at a first assembly seam;

the liner being further assembled together by means of a second assembly seam, said second assembly seam comprising an upwardly extending stitching on the lateral side of the article of footwear;

the liner being assembled together only by means of the first and second assembly seams;

a tightening system assembled to said liner for tightening the article of footwear to a foot of a wearer.

Claim 20. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 19, wherein:

said tightening system comprises a lacing system.

Claim 21. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 19, wherein:

said liner further comprises an elongated opening in an area of the article of footwear for passage of a foot of a wearer of the article of footwear, said area corresponding to a top of the foot of the wearer;

said tightening system including laces extending in a lacing pattern over said elongated opening.

Claim 22. (New) An article of footwear comprising:

a bottom assembly;

an upper comprising:

an extensible, ventilated material; and

an outer protective covering layer positioned over said extensible, ventilated material at a front section of the upper, said outer protective cover layer comprising a mesh material.

Claim 23. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 22, wherein:

said front section of the upper extends from a front end at least through an area of the upper for passage of the foot of the wearer of the article of footwear, said area corresponding to a top of the wearer's foot.

Claim 24. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 22, wherein:

said outer protective cover layer is made of a nondeformable material.

Claim 25. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 22, wherein:

said outer protective cover layer is made of NYLON.

Claim 26. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 22, further comprising:

a reinforcing gusset assembled to the upper in a heel zone, said gusset extending forwardly on lateral and medial sides of the article of footwear toward the outer protective covering layer.

Claim 27. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 22, further comprising:

a reinforcing gusset assembled to the upper in a heel zone, said gusset extending forwardly on lateral and medial sides of the article of footwear to the outer protective covering layer.